2nd April 1953]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" We have now stopped it and disbanded the staff in view of the impending introduction of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that there were a number of complaints that it was not really rent reduction but rent enhancement that these officers made ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know how much money was lost on account of this staff as their work is going to be a waste ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is not going to be wasted. The statistics are there and they will be useful when we go into the matter again."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the personnel on whom Rs. 2 lakhs and odd were spent were really—people in the top cadre especially—extracted from Andhra and Tamil Nad and that they did not know anything about the Malabar tenure ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" An I.C.S. officer from England comes here and masters the local tenure much better than some of us. Like that, these people also could master the Malabar tenure." (Laughter.)

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What was the primary object with which this expenditure was incurred ? Has that object been now achieved ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The object was to fix the fair rent and preparation was made for that. Meanwhile, certain other factors have crept in and there is an Amending Bill to be introduced."

Price of rice in South Kanara district.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTHA PAI (on behalf of Sri Y. Manjaya Shetty) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to check the soaring price of rice in South Kanara district?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" South Kanara district except Hosdrug sub-taluk is more or less a self-sufficient one. Hence, the levy system of procurement in this district has been abolished. Informal rationing has been continued in Hosdrug sub-taluk which is a deficit area and 6 ounces of rice and 6 ounces of millets and/or wheat are being issued in this area through ration shops. Four ounces of rice and 6 ounces of millet and/or wheat are issued in ex-statutory rationed areas of the district. In the rural areas 10 ounces of millet are issued. South Kanara (except Hosdrug sub-taluk) has been formed into a separate zone and no stocks of rice or

paddy are allowed to be transported out of the district without a permit. During February 1953, 178 ration and fair price shops were functioning in the district. The Collector of South Kanara has already been instructed to adopt one or more of the following steps in order to check the rise in the price of rice in open market :—

(1) to be on the watch to find out cases of cornering of stock by merchants;

(2) to open fair price shops in areas where prices show a tendency to rise abnormally; and

(3) to ensure that all fair price shops keep adequate stocks for issue to the consumers.

On a reference from the Collector of South Kanara, the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) has accepted the suggestion of the Collector to instruct the Commercial Tax Officer to severely restrict the number of licences granted under the Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952, in the strategic areas in order to prevent smuggling of rice. The Collector has also been asked to take action to requisition, in suitable cases, stocks under clause 10 of the abovesaid order."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" Did the Government permit any export of rice to Amindivi Islands from South Kanara recently and, if so, what quantity was permitted to be exported? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think any such permit was granted. If any instances are brought to my notice, I shall have the matter examined."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" What steps have the Government taken to prevent smuggling of rice to Goa from Coondapoor taluk? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sufficient anti-smuggling squad has been posted there to prevent smuggling."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Have the Government any proposal to abolish the zonal system? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Not at present, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Will the Government enhance the quantity of 4 ounces of rice distributed through fair price shops with a view to check the rise in price? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We shall consider it after one or two months when the lean months begin."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" What is the present market rate per measure of rice in South Kanara? "

2nd April 1953]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I don't have the figures here. If the hon. Member is interested, I am prepared to give the particulars later."

Reconstruction of the bridges in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar.

* 275 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the bridges at Vatavanthoor and Karimkiel in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar, have completely broken down, and if so, for how long; and

(*b*) the steps taken so far by the Government either to repair or to put fresh bridges at these places?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"(*a*) The wooden deck of the bridge at Vatavanthoor broke down a month back under the weight of unauthorised lorry traffic. The two bridges at Karimkiel are in a fair condition for light traffic.

"(*b*) The Malabar District Board has taken up the work of renewing the whole deck of Vatavanthoor bridge. The work of reconstructing the two bridges at Karimkiel has been sanctioned for execution under the Post-war Road Development Programme. The works will be taken up by the Malabar District Board during 1953–54 if funds become available."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Are the Government aware that when the rainy season comes the whole traffic will be paralysed with unfordable streams impeding all traffic? If so, will they expedite the construction of the bridges before June?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"It is recognized that this road is a very important road, but masonry bridges cost more than Rs. 2·3 lakhs. I think necessary steps are being taken to have masonry bridges."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—"In view of the fact that bridges are rather important and in view of the fact that the Malabar District Board is notoriously bankrupt in its finances, if the expectation of the Minister that the finances of the district are likely to improve during the year 1953–54 does not come to pass, will the Government consider the question of executing the construction of bridges themselves?" 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"These works may be included in the Five-year Plan so that both the Government and the District Board may aid their execution."

Statistics re *the amount of water flowing into the Arabian sea from Malabar.*

* 276 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Public Works